

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08360 272140Z

72

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NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

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R 272057Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 798

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR VE ECON

SUBJ: HIGH-LEVEL VENEZUELAN MISSION TO MOSCOW

1. CARACAS PAPERS CARRY AFP STORY FROM PARIS THAT IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET INVITATION VICE FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN RAPHAEL WILL ARRIVE IN MOSCOW ON AUGUST 27 AS HEAD OF A HIGH-LEVEL VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO INTENSIFY THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION,

TO IMPROVE SOVIET-VENEZUELAN COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS, AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW

WHITHIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. REPORT CITES RAPHAEL AS STATING THAT VENEZUELA HAS DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE "AN INTENSIFICATION OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USSR."

2. INCLUDED IN THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WILL BE DARIO BAUDER, DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL POLICY IN THE VENEZUELAN INSITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND LEONARDO DIAZ GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 08360 272140Z

3. COMMENT: FOCAL POINT OF RAPHAEL'S DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW WILL
LIKELY BE RELATIONS WITH CUBA. VENEZUELA MAY BE LAYING GROUND FOR
ADVANTAGEOUS COMMERCIAL ARRANGMENTS WITH CUBA IN EXPECTATION OF
CHANGE OF OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA AND IN VIEW OF SOVIET INTEREST
IN DECREASING CUBAN DEPENDENCE UPON OIL TRANSPORTED FROM USSR.
FISHER

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